



BRINGING SPORT TO COMMUNITIES



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ORIGINAL RESEARCH article

Front. Public Health, 30 July 2024
 Sec. Aging and Public Health
 Volume 12 - 2024 |
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1424080>

This article is part of the Research Topic
 International Perspectives on Older Adult
 Social Isolation and Loneliness
[View all 19 articles >](#)

A qualitative study of a Sporting Memories program in South Australia: belonging, participation, and social connection

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PROGRAM UPDATES

EXECUTIVE OFFICER >

EMMA MILANESE

These fortnights just fly by!

Supporting Success hasn't been running just yet but we are due to return back to our favourite school next week! Starting from Thursday the 15th of August, we will be out at school every Thursday and Friday until week 9 of the school term! We can't wait to see what the term holds for our little legends at Adelaide West Special Education Centre! Sporting Memories has had a brilliant session with Andrew Jarman! What an incredible footy player! Robert talks about Andrew's time at our Sporting Memories session in the next column.

I'm very proud to announce that our very own Robert Laidlaw has published! Read more about his work on page 3! Sporting Memories is showing very promising results and we are grateful to Robert for evaluating our program.

Something I have been working on for the past fortnight is Quiz Night! We will be running our annual quiz night in partnership with our good friends at Adelaide West Special Education Centre on Friday, the 25th of October! Can you say THEME (Halloween! and prizes for the scariest costume!). Find out more about quiz night on page 3.

As always, thank you so much for your ongoing support. We appreciate you!



ROBERT LAIDLAW >

SPORTING MEMORIES

In front of a crowd of over 40 people, Sporting Memories Australia had another great guest speaker at Unley Buddies for Breakfast, with former Adelaide Crows footballer Andrew Jarman on the first Friday morning of August.

Ever the showman, Andrew had the audience 'eating out of his hand', as he regaled the crowd with his renowned humour, interspersed with stories from his career on and off the football field.

The highs, the lows, the characters he had played with and against, it was all included in Andrew's unique way of 'telling it how it was'. He also had many strong opinions of where the game is today and what he thought were ways to help fix some of the problems - just two field umpires was a popular opinion shared by most in attendance.

There were some interesting snippets about which team Andrew could have played for at the start of his career in the SANFL. In under 15s he was tied to West Torrens, and he could have been an Eagle. Then his uncle Trevor Jarman, who had played league footy at Central District, tried to use his influence to get Andrew and his brother Darren to Elizabeth. But Andrew idolized North Adelaide's Barrie Robran, so he had his heart set on playing at Prospect, where he ended up.

Then after the disastrous 1989 grand final, where North only managed one goal against Port, Andrew decided to switch to Norwood, the season before Adelaide entered the AFL.

Although Andrew enjoyed his time with the Adelaide Crows he was prouder of his involvement in the South Australian State of Origin games in the 1980s.

A winner of two Magarey Medals, with North in 1987 and Norwood in 1997, Andrew has the longest gap between winning his first and last medals, as well as being the only player to win Magarey Medals in premiership years for two teams.

If anyone is interested in considering a volunteering role with Sporting Memories, they are encouraged to contact Robert or Richard at sports.united18@gmail.com.



PROGRAM UPDATES

RICHARD MCGRATH >

RESEARCH & EVALUATION

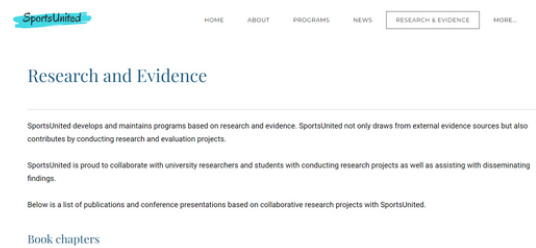
SportsUnited develops and maintains programs based on research and evidence. SportsUnited not only draws from external evidence sources but also contributes by conducting research and evaluation projects.

Over the past few years Robert Laidlaw (our very own Project Officer) has been undertaking a Masters by Research degree at the University of South Australia focusing on the Sporting Memories Australia program.

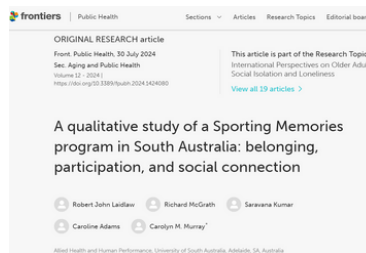
Last week Robert had a research paper published with his supervisors. The paper 'A qualitative study of a Sporting Memories program in South Australia: belonging, participation, and social connection' was published in Frontiers of Public Health.

The paper presents findings from a study that explored Sporting Memories Australia participants perspectives of the program. Three key themes were identified, these being "Free to talk about anything," "Not feeling left out" and "A chance to share and learn." Collectively, participants reflected on how they built social connections, felt safe and included and learnt more about each other.

This paper provides valuable insights for SportsUnited in relation to delivering high quality sport for development programs. Click [here](#) if you are interested in reading the full paper. You can also check out all the other research and evaluation information SportsUnited staff have published on our website [here](#).



[SportsUnited website: View our research](#)



[Robert Laidlaws publication](#)

EMMA MILANESE >

QUIZ NIGHT!

It's back! The SportsUnited X AD West Quiz Night is BACK!

In 2024, it's going to be bigger, better and even more exciting than the last one with more prizes, harder questions and guaranteed, more fun and laughter!

In collaboration with Adelaide West Special Education Centre, we are running a quiz night! Gather a table of 10, BYO food and drink and get on down to the **Adelaide West Special Education Centre** Hall (12 Moldavia Walk, Taperoo, 5017) on the **25th of October** from 6:30pm for a night of fun, laughter, and general knowledge. More information coming soon! But you can view ticket prices [HERE!](#)



RICHARD MCGRATH >

RADIO PROGRAM

Our Sporting Memories Australia radio program on BBBfm89.1 over the past two weeks has continued the A-Z of Sport, focusing on the Letters 'Q' and 'R'. We also had the chance to hear about Emma's travels in Switzerland and Italy.

The A-Z Sport Quiz has been heating up with Steve scoring a win with Letter 'Q' words and Emma pulling off her first win since retuning from her travels with the Letter 'R' quiz. This leaves the current A-Z Sport Quiz with Emma (with the help of Andrea) winning six times, Steve with five wins and seven draws. With only eight rounds remaining it's still not clear who the winner may be! This Saturday the show will be focused on the Letter 'S'.

What sporting words or names can you recall starting with the Letter 'S'? There are quite a few!!! Tune in from 9-11am by visiting the [BBBfm website](#) or download the Community Radio Plus app (available for both Apple and Android devices) and search for BBBfm 89.1.



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

SportsUnited is currently seeking volunteers for our Supporting Success program at Adelaide West Special Education Centre and Sporting Memories clubs across various Adelaide metropolitan locations.

We are looking for people who can:

- Actively participate in weekly sessions
- Engage and communicate sensitively with our members (some of whom may have difficulties communicating), with their partners or carers, with fellow volunteers, and with SportsUnited staff.
- Enjoy working as part of a team and taking responsibility for guiding fellow volunteers during sessions.
- Understand the value of companionship, have a great sense of humour, and are able to connect with people of all ages and from all backgrounds

SportsUnited volunteers have the opportunity to:

- Experience a range of new opportunities and a sense of fulfillment.
- Use their skills, knowledge, life experiences, and an interest in sport to help tackle social isolation within the local community.
- Have insight into and experience working with an innovative and experienced not-for-profit charity.
- Experience in working as part of and leading a team of volunteers. As well as being part of the wider SportsUnited team.

SportsUnited volunteers are provided with full induction and training, ongoing support, and access to training resources. If you are interested in becoming a

SportsUnited volunteer or have any questions, email:
Supporting Success: Katerina Mattock (Project Officer)

katmattock.sportsunited@gmail.com

Sporting Memories: Robert Laidlaw (Project Officer)

robertlaidlaw.sports.united@gmail.com

or via the SportsUnited website Contact Us page

<https://sportsunited.org.au/contact>

SPORTING PINK PACKS

In response to the Covid-19 global pandemic, SportsUnited has developed a digital publication called Sporting Pink Australia Packs available for anyone (free) to use at home.

Each weekly pack contains a sporting reminiscence story (these can be about sporting players or events), a sporting quiz, and Name the Player as well as a Word Search.

The packs are a great way to get the conversation flowing, to remember those sporting moments, and to talk about sport!

If you, or anybody you know, would like to receive a free copy of the Sporting Pink Australia pack, please complete our [registration form on the SportsUnited website](#).

STAY IN TOUCH

Email: sports.united18@gmail.com

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FACEBOOK

Keep up to date with our latest news and stories.

Join our conversations about sport & health.

Like us now and join the conversation

@sportsunited1

TWITTER

If you like quick and short news or want to join in

a 'live' conversation with us, then follow us

on Twitter. We'd love to hear from you. Follow

us on @sports_united1

INSTAGRAM

We love to share images and videos from our

programs as well as other interesting photos.

Like us now and check out what we are up to

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LINKEDIN

Like us now and check out what we are up to.